

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated May 25, 2005 has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are hereby amended. Claims 7-10 are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 889 556, issued to Douty et al. (hereinafter “*Douty*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4 recites a laundry dryer control panel comprising, *inter alia*, a wall that “extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields portions of exposed cores of the first wire and the second wire.”

Douty does not disclose at least the above-mentioned features, as recited. More specifically, *Douty* fails to disclose portions of “exposed cores” and thus fails to disclose a wall “configured for shielding an exposed part of a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion.” In contrast, *Douty* discloses conductors 190 of power cable 192 as being completely interconnected to internal wires 186 by terminals 86, 88, 188 and ring tongue section 194. See *Douty* at column 5, lines 21-22 and Figures 4-6. That is, *Douty* does not disclose any part of power cable 192 or internal wires 186 as having “exposed cores.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 5-6, which depend from claim 4, are also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,742,708, issued to *McCormick*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,030,802, issued to *Lennon et al.* (hereinafter *Lennon*). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a structure comprising at least a wall “configured for shielding parts exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion.”

As admitted on page 4 of the Office Action, *McCormick* fails to disclose at least the above-mentioned features.

Further, *Lennon* fails to cure the deficiencies of *McCormick*. More specifically, *Lennon* does not disclose, *inter alia*, a wall that is configured for shielding exposed parts of a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion. Moreover, *Lennon* does not even disclose any exposed core portions of leads 35 extending from terminal block assembly 11. Further, support plate 47, as disclosed by *Lennon*, does not extend below a bottom portion of the front portion of the terminal block.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claim 3, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCormick* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,010,996, issued to *Hopkins et al.* (hereinafter *Hopkins*), and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,820,189, issued to *Sergeant et al.* (hereinafter *Sergeant*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 2 recites the features of claim 1 including at least a wall that is “configured for shielding an exposed part of a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion of the terminal block.”

As discussed above, *McCormick* fails to disclose at least the above-mentioned features. In addition, Applicants submit that *Hopkins* fails to disclose a wall that is “configured for shielding parts of an exposed core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion,” as recited. Moreover, *Hopkins* does not even disclose an “exposed part of a core of a wire” extending above an upper portion of the front portion of a terminal block.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that *Sergeant* fails to cure the deficiencies of *McCormick* and *Hopkins*. More specifically, *Sergeant* does not disclose, *inter alia*, “exposed part of a core of a wire.” Rather, in column 4 lines 1-12, *Sergeant* discloses a wire harness connected to terminals 18. See *Sergeant* at Figure 1B.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is patentable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination, and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, new claims 7-10 are also allowable at least due to their dependency on the respective independent claims 1 and 4.

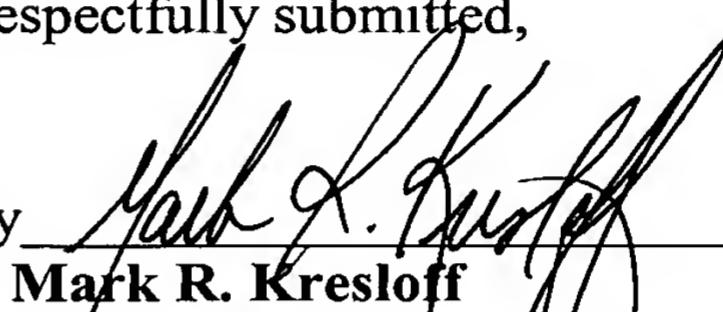
The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicants’ representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: August 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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